

Claims

I claim:

1. A computerized method of managing programs, said method comprising:

identifying activities from a plurality of programs;

establishing interdependencies between said activities; and

graphically displaying said interdependencies of said activities in a computerized schedule available to multiple program managers such that modification of one of said interdependent activities updates said schedule of said activities.

2. A computerized method of managing programs, said method comprising:

identifying activities from a plurality of programs, said activities having contingency data and interdependency data for said programs;

storing said contingency data and said interdependency data of said activities in a database; and

graphically displaying said contingency data and said interdependency data in a program schedule wherein a modification of one of said activities in one of said programs is operable to display an effect of said modification to said program schedule.

3. A computerized method of managing programs, said method comprising:

identifying activities from a plurality of programs;

establishing interdependencies between said activities; and

graphically displaying said interdependencies of said activities in an electronic schedule, viewable by multiple program managers, such that a modification of one of said activities reestablishes said interdependencies in an updated, graphical display of said electronic schedule.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein said modification of one of said activities initiates an approval request requiring a response before said modification.

5. The method of Claim 3 wherein said modification also transmits an electronic message to managers of programs affected by said modification.

6. The method of Claim 3 wherein said method further comprises providing fixed-duration scheduling with electronic notification.

7. The method of Claim 3 wherein said electronic schedule is operable for managers to raise issues, alert managers of scheduling changes, arrange team meetings, and initiate phase exit reviews.

8. The method of Claim 3 further comprising displaying problem logs.

9. The method of Claim 3 wherein said activities comprise phases, tasks, deliverables, and gates.

10. A computerized method of managing programs, said method comprising:

identifying activities from a plurality of programs;

establishing interdependencies between said activities; and

graphically displaying an impact of a schedule and a status of one of said activities in one of said programs on said schedule and said status of one of said activities in another of said programs.

11. A system for managing a program, said system comprising:

a database operable to maintain activities identified from a plurality of programs;

a processor programed to:

establish interdependencies between said activities; and

graphically display said interdependencies of said activities in an electronic schedule, viewable and modifiable by multiple program managers across a network, such that modification of a scheduled activity reestablishes said interdependencies in an updated, graphical display of said electronic schedule.

12. The system of Claim 11 wherein modification of an activity initiates an approval request, said approval request requiring a response before said electronic schedule is updated with reestablished interdependencies.

13. The system of Claim 11 wherein an attempted modification transmits an electronic message to managers of programs affected by said attempted modification.

14. The system of Claim 11, wherein said processor is further programed to provide fixed-duration scheduling with electronic notification.

15. The system of Claim 11, wherein said system is operable for displaying problem logs.

16. The system of Claim 11 wherein said system is a web-based Program Management Application.

17. The system of Claim 11 wherein said system is operable for managers to raise issues, alert managers of scheduling changes, arrange team meetings, and initiate phase exit reviews.

18. The system of Claim 11, wherein said activities include phases, tasks, deliverables, and gates.

19. A system of managing programs for the development of products and services, comprising:

a database operative to maintain identifying activities from a plurality of programs and to establish and maintain interdependencies between said activities; and

a user interface operative for graphically display said interdependencies of said activities over a network in an electronic schedule, viewable and modifiable by program managers such that modification of a scheduled activity reestablishes said interdependencies in an updated, graphical display of said electronic schedule.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein said network is The Internet.

21. The method of Claim 19, wherein said user interface is a JAVA application.

22. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for a method of managing programs with cross-program dependencies, said method comprising:

identifying activities from a plurality of programs;

establishing interdependencies between said activities; and

graphically displaying said interdependencies of said activities in an electronic schedule, viewable by multiple program managers, such that modification of a scheduled activity reestablishes said interdependencies in an updated, graphical display of said electronic schedule.

23. A set of application program interfaces embodied on a computer-readable medium for execution on a computer in conjunction with an application program that manages programs, comprising:

A First Interface that receives First Contingency Data and First Interdependency Data from a First Program;

A Second Interface that receives Second Contingency Data and Second Interdependency Data from a Second Program;

A Third Interface that displays said First Contingency Data, said First Interdependency Data, said Second Contingency Data and Second Interdependency Data in a program schedule wherein a modification of an activity in one of said programs is operable to display an effect of said modification to said program schedule.